

# Law on the Frontlines

*Legal Reference for Public Libraries*



Via Canva

## Navigating the Law: Family Law

*This session is being recorded*

TMSLL/CMCLLD/MdA2JC 2023 10 04

## Introductions

***The Frontlines Workgroup includes representatives from the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library, Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors, the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, and the Access to Justice Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts.***

***Instructors for each course will vary but the information provided is based on the core curriculum of the ongoing Frontlines Project.***

***Today's instructors are...***

Vickie Yiannoulou

Prince George's  
County Circuit  
Court Law Library

Joan Bellistri

Anne Arundel  
County Public Law  
Library

Joy Hollerbach

Thurgood Marshall  
State Law Library

Hughston Vasil

Thurgood Marshall  
State Law Library

# Learning Outcomes



Describe the general topic of law



Identify best descriptive resources



Utilize primary sources of law for the topic



Assess and select among options for referral

# Access to Justice

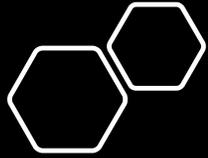
*A quick review...*



# What is Family Law?

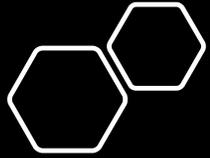
- Divorce
- Alimony
- Child Custody
- Child Support
- Visitation Rights
- Guardianship
- Paternity
- Name changes

*Domestic violence can also be grouped with family law.*



# Common Conflicts

- Child support – modification or non-payment
- Visitation schedule – modification or breach
- Guardianship of a minor or an adult
- Birth certificate issues
- Establishing paternity

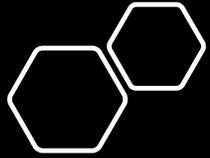


# Details to Know

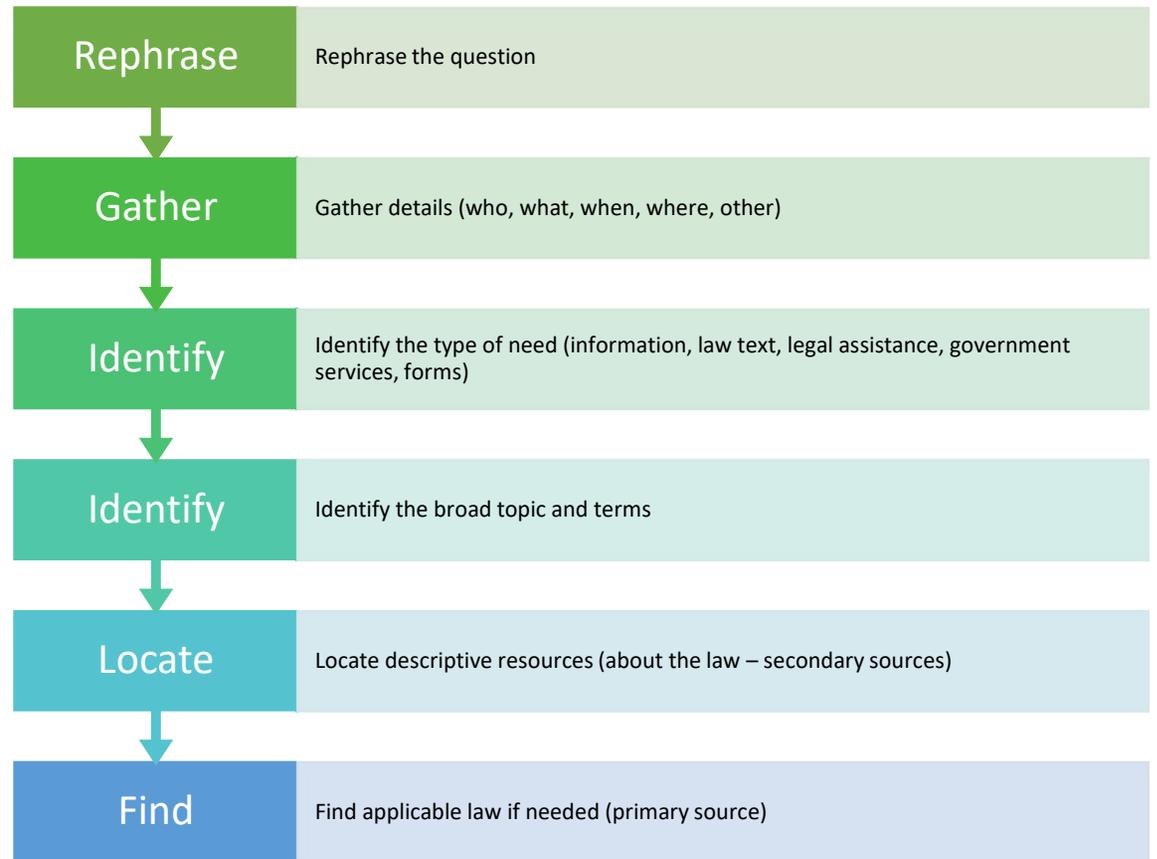
Maryland state law establishes how marriage and family are defined, established, and dissolved

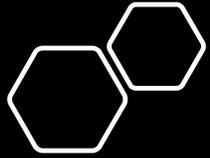
Maryland State law handles most processes for divorce, child custody, and child support

Federal law increasingly passes broad-level legislation within areas such as child welfare, child support services, adoption, and child protection.



# Best Practices Review





# Descriptive Resources

Maryland People's Law Library  
[www.peoples-law.org](http://www.peoples-law.org)

Maryland Courts  
[mdcourts.gov](http://mdcourts.gov)

Nolo (website and texts)  
[nolo.com](http://nolo.com)

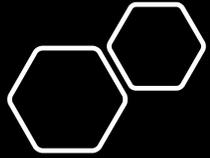
# Demonstration: Descriptive Resources

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# Practice: Using Descriptive Resources

Choose one of the questions below. Then, using the resources just demonstrated (PLL, MdCourts, Nolo), see if you can locate resources to respond. Note which resource you used and if and where you found helpful information.

1. My father is elderly and has been diagnosed in the early stages of dementia. Is there a way I can get the authority to manage his finances?
2. My ex is several months behind on support payments. I know he earns plenty, he just doesn't want to pay. How do I get the money I need to support our children?



Law and  
Court  
Procedures

Maryland Code,  
Family Law Article

Maryland Rules, Title  
9 - Family Law Actions

# Demonstration: Primary Sources

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# Practice: Using Primary Sources

1. Using the Family Law Article of the Maryland Code, locate the section that addresses someone having their maiden name restored after divorce.
2. Using the Maryland Rules, find the Rule that provides a general form for a Statement of Marital and Non-Marital Property.

# Forms

- Maryland Family Law Court Forms  
<https://mdcourts.gov/family/family-forms>
- Maryland Court Forms Finder  
<https://mdcourts.gov/courtforms/finder>
- Maryland Courts Guide and File  
<https://mdcourts.gov/guideandfile>  
*for help completing forms online*

# Connect to Legal Assistance



**LOOK LOCAL!**



Court Help Centers – [mdcourts.gov/selfhelp](https://mdcourts.gov/selfhelp)

*Note: not all family help centers assist with adult guardianship*



Family Court Help Centers –

[mdcourts.gov/family/familyselfhelp](https://mdcourts.gov/family/familyselfhelp)



Women's Law Center of Maryland – [wlcmd.org](https://wlcmd.org)



Maryland Legal Aid – [www.mdlab.org](https://www.mdlab.org)



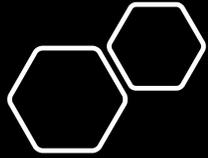
Law Libraries – [mdcourts.gov/ccll](https://mdcourts.gov/ccll)



PLL Legal Services Directory – [www.peoples-law.org/directory](https://www.peoples-law.org/directory)

# Practice: Finding Referrals

- Not including the specific referrals already discussed – can you identify an organization, either state or local, that may assist with family law questions?



# Self-Study

- [People's Law Library: Family Law Articles](#)
- [Maryland Family Law](#), by Cynthia Callahan (LexisNexis)
- [Maryland Court Help Videos](#), especially the [Family Videos](#) collection

# Maryland Public Library Toolkit

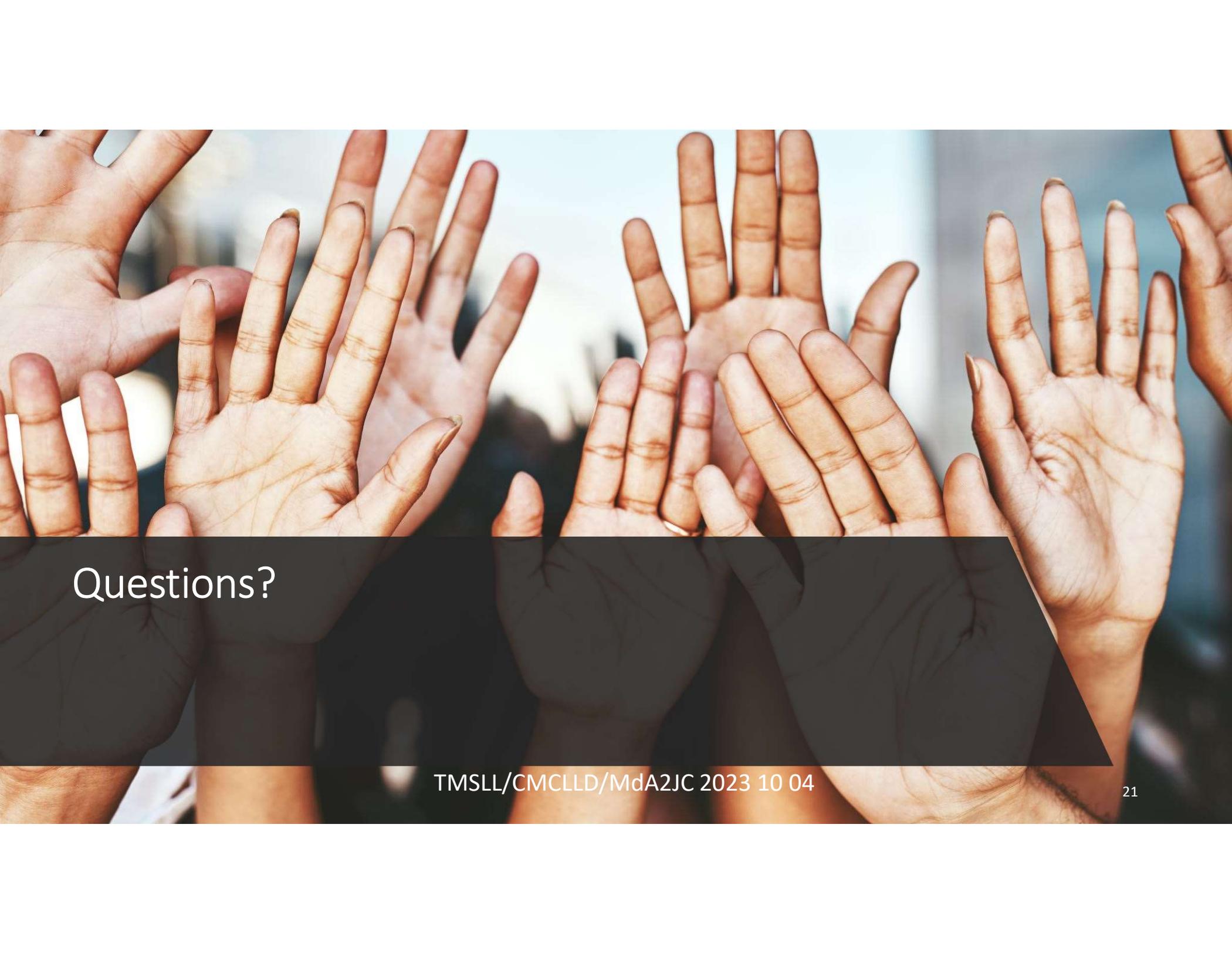
- Designed for public library reference staff as a reference guide to Maryland primary and secondary legal resources
- Web-based:  
<https://mdcourts.gov/lawlib/using-library/for-librarians/public-library-toolkit>



Want some more practice?

[Sign-up](#) for a hands-on Frontlines Lab session!

Family Law October 24, 2023.



Questions?

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